

As President and VP of Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc in Waterford CT, we are writing to ask you to reinstate the full amount that was in the Governor's original budget for the preservation of Oswegatchie Hills.

Preserving the health of the Niantic River Estuary and the natural beauty of the Oswegatchie Hills that overlook the River is crucial not only to the local people who boat, swim, fish and live along the River, but also to the well-being of the entire Long Island Sound. The Niantic River is a tidal estuary emptying directly into the Long Island Sound carrying with it all the runoff from its entire watershed. For the past 15 years both the Niantic River and the Oswegatchie Hills have been facing a major crisis - the threat of development of an 1700+ unit condominium complex within the Oswegatchie Hills - right on the River.

The budgeted amount was the State's portion of money being raised to preserve this important piece of waterfront property. What happens to the Oswegatchie Hills will have direct impacts on the health of the Long Island Sound. Much has been said about decreasing Nitrogen levels in the LI Sound and otherwise decreasing pollution going into the Sound. Decisions like these are where the we put the resources behind the talk. Please reinstate the full \$2 million.

Sincerely,

Fred Grimsey, President and Founder, Save the River- Save the Hills, Inc.

Deborah Moshier-Dunn, VP, Save the River-Save the Hills, Inc.

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